Permission to Peasants to fell the Trees

*109. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to allow the peasants to fell the trees of certain species in their fields;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Control on felling of trees on private lands is a subject under the jurisdiction of State Governments.

Clearance to Projects in Maharashtra from Environmental Angle

*110. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of development projects sent by the Maharashtra Government to the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years and out of those the number of projects which have been cleared so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all the development work in that state has stopped;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to liberalise the said Act, especially for the tribal areas in Chandrapur and Garhchiroli districts, where percentage of forest land is more but the development work has been completely stopped; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) 1. The details of proposals received under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from Government of Maharashtra, during the last 3 years viz. 1987, 1988 and 1989 are as shown below:—

(i) Total number of proposals received	374
(ii) Total number of proposals approved	147
(iii) Total number of proposals rejected on merit	7
(iv) Total number of proposls rejected for non-furnishing of information	213
(v) Total number of proposals withdrawn by the State Government	5
(vi) Total number of proposals pending in this Ministry	2* (as on 31-3-90)

*The details of 2 cases pending in this Ministry are as under :—

Name of proposal	Present status
A. Diversion of 1.2 hectares of forest land in Raigarh district, Maharashtra for quarrying of stone.	The site inspection report has been received from CCF (Central) Bhopal recently. The proposal is being processed.
B. Diversion of 49.76 hectares of forest land in Buldhana District, Maharashtra for construction of Hiwarkheda III Minor Irrigation Tank.	The site inspection report is awaited from C.C.F. (Central), Bhopal.